

Remarks

In the Amendment dated May 11, 2004, Applicant presented claims 1-38 in amended form. Applicant also provided his basis for contending that claims 1-38 were allowable. This included why the claims were (i) distinguishable over the prior art relied on by the Examiner in rejecting them under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation was based separately U.S. Patent No. 4,708,676 to Lin ("Lin"), U.S. Patent No. 4,875,386 to Dickerson ("Dickerson"), or U.S. Patent No. 3,937,629 to Hamasaka ("Hamasaka") and (ii) definite in view of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§ 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner responded to the May 11th Amendment by issuing a restriction requirement in the Office Action dated May 27, 2005. In Applicant's July 22, 2005 response to the restriction requirement, Applicant selected claims 1-9, 16/6, 17/1, 18/1, 20-27, 28/20, and 28/27 as the species to prosecute in the present application. These claims were directed to the species that the Examiner indicated was shown by Figures 1, 3, and 4.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the in-person interview conducted on September 20, 2005. At the interview, Applicant and the undersigned discussed the substantive rejections to the claims in the Office Action dated December 15, 2004 (the 35 U.S.C. §§ 112, second paragraph, indefiniteness rejection and 102(b) anticipation rejection). The results of the interview were that Applicant would continue to prosecute claims 20-27, 28/20, and 28/27 in the present application and cancel claims 1-19 and 29-38. Applicant also was to amend claim 20 to overcome the Examiner's indefiniteness rejection by changing "predetermined peripheral portion" to "peripheral portion." The above amendments have been made per this Amendment. The Examiner also stated that once these amendments were made, subject to a confirmatory search, claims 20-27, 28/20, and 28/27 would be in condition for allowance.

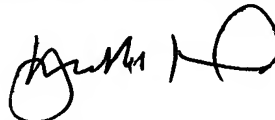
During the interview, the Examiner made Applicant aware of French Patent No. 91 11637. Applicant has reviewed this patent and contends that it does not anticipate or render obvious the present invention whether taken alone or in combination with any of the prior art of record. Applicant is submitting the French patent to be made of record.

Further, since the interview, Applicant has become aware of additional reference that is being submitted to be made of record. This reference is U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0050205A1. Applicant contends that this reference does not anticipate or render obvious the present invention whether taken alone or in combination with any of the prior art of record.

The present invention is new, non-obvious, and useful. Applicant submits that claims 20-27, 28/20, and 28/27, in amended form, are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider claims 20-27, 28/20, and 28/27, in amended form, and pass them to issue in due course because these claims are definite and distinguishable over the prior art of record.

Dated: 9/20/2005

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne M. Kennard', with a large, stylized circular flourish at the end.

Wayne M. Kennard
Attorneys for the Applicant

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP
60 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
Tel: 617-526-6183
Fax: 617-526-5000
Attorney Docket Number: 114089.120US2